



## Life More Abundant Bible Study

# Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 8C

We conclude this chapter with a detailed exposition from the heavenly messenger Gabriel regarding the rise and fall of the nations, especially those of Pagan and Papal Rome. Gabriel, a *Covering Cherub* of God whose name means “man of God”, is mentioned here for the first time in the bible (v16) and is sent by One having authority (standing or positioned between the banks of the river Ulai) to give understanding to Daniel of the vision (*mar’eh* – Hebrew). The vision (*Chazown* – Hebrew) commencing in Daniel 8:1 spanning the rise and fall of three world empires and concluding with the cleansing of the sanctuary (*Qodesh* – Hebrew) is said to last a total of 2,300 days (Daniel 8:1, 13). Consider that the bible here uses two distinct words to signify the word vision. Let us gain an understanding of the two words and their usage that bear significance in subsequent chapters:

- *Chazown* – Hebrew word for vision used to denote a complete comprehensive vision, oracle or prophecy. The use of this word in Daniel Chapter 8 covers the panoramic prophecies of world empire’s that rise and fall over time. Usage of the word *Chazown* in this chapter are found in verses: 1, 2, 15, 17, 26
- *Mar’eh* – Hebrew word for vision used to denote a “snapshot”, a focused picture, appearance, or scene [within a broader vision]. The use of this word in Daniel Chapter 8 focuses on the segment of the prophecy which deals with the conclusion of the 2,300 days when the sanctuary will be cleansed. Usage of the word *Mar’eh* in this chapter are found in verses: 15, 16, 26

Understanding that Gabriel is commanded to shed light to Daniel of the entire vision (*chazown*) concluding with the particular scene (*mar’eh*) occurring at the “*time of the end*” (v17 and v16 respectively), suggests that the One speaking to Gabriel identifies **two separate subjects** for our consideration and study. Beholding the vision and these wonderful persons, that is Gabriel and the One between the banks of the River Ulai, Daniel falls faint as if in a deep sleep until awoken by Gabriel.

What do you believe the phrase “*last end of the indignation*” spoken by Gabriel to mean in verse 19?

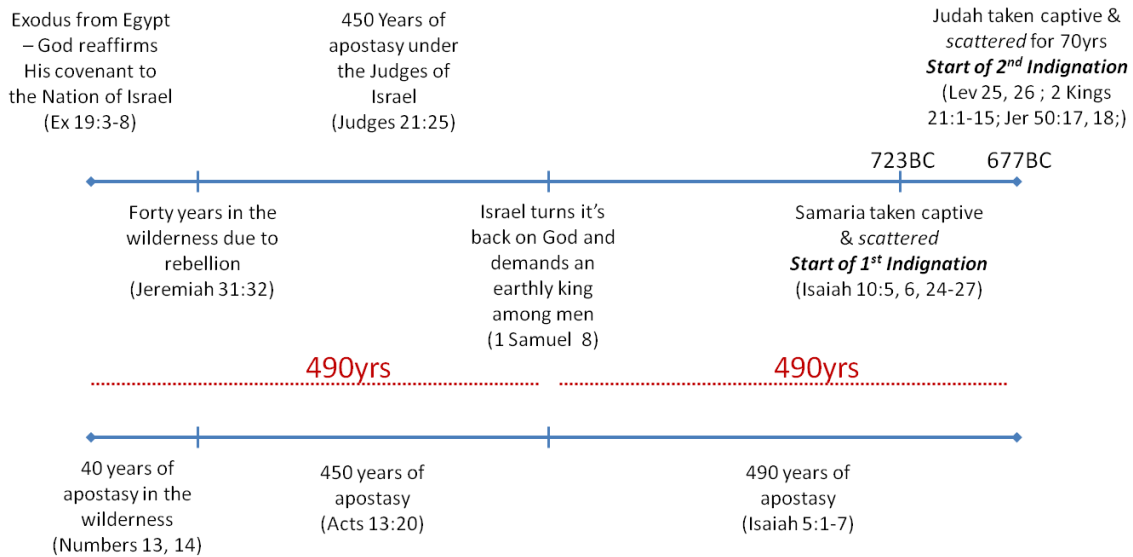
Decomposing the statement, we understand that Gabriel speaks of a “last end” of the indignation. By deductive reasoning, we must conclude that there must also be a “first end” of the indignation. Therefore, we conclude there are at least two indignations, corresponding to a “first end” and a “last end” respectively. Let us understand what the term indignation concerns. Consider the following verses:

1. Lamentations 2:1-5
2. Ezekiel 22:15-31
3. Deuteronomy 29:27-29
4. Zechariah 1:12

From these verses we understand that *the indignation* being spoken of is God’s punishment upon Israel, namely them being scattered by their enemies for apostasy in breaking God’s covenant written in the Law of Moses (Ezekiel 36:17-19). This apostasy committed by

Daniel's forefathers is the cause for his writing from Babylon as a captive of that nation. Therefore, Gabriel is instructed to give Daniel counsel what is to happen at the conclusion of the "last end" of God's punishment He has inflicted upon Israel.

## Events Leading to the Lord's Indignation with Israel



To understand the nature of the two indignations thus mentioned, we must make note to the fact that at the time of King Rehoboam Israel was divided into Northern and Southern Kingdoms, with the house of David ruling to the south (2 Chronicles 10, 11; Ezekiel 37:15-22). The covenant promises once spoken by Moses to the one unified nation were reconfirmed to the king appointed by God in the Northern Kingdom, Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:26-39). Israel therefore, existed as two separate kingdoms under a common covenant with God. Bible history confirms that both Northern and Southern kingdoms fell into open apostasy (rebellion), turning from God, seeking strange gods, breaking His covenant, and were therefore subject to the covenant curses pronounced within the Law of Moses.

The provision of the curse written in the Law of Moses called for *seven-times scattering* to be inflicted upon the nations [refer to the studies on **Daniel Chapters 4** and **5** for an explanation of the term "seven-times"]. The first indignation of God fell upon the Northern Kingdom at the hands of the Assyrians in 723BC (Isaiah 10:5,6, 24-27; Amos 5); the second indignation that befell the Southern Kingdom, commenced in 677BC at the hands of the Babylonians (2 Kings 21:1-15; Jeremiah 50:17, 18). Therefore at the conclusion of the second time of scattering, namely for the Southern Kingdom, will be the fulfillment of the message given by the "last end of the indignation". Gabriel states that the time for the end of the prophecy is "appointed" (*Mow`ed* - Hebrew: meaning a fixed, specific time) by none other than God, thus confirming the vision is assured (Daniel 2:45).

## The Lord's Indignation with the "Houses of Israel"



Notice that the Lord, through the Angel Gabriel identifies the meaning of the visions of the Ram and the Goat to signify the nations of Media-Persia and Greece respectively. The bible helps us to understand in verse 23 that in God's eyes, these two world empires, the empire to follow them, and perhaps even the once chosen Nation of Israel are all considered "transgressors".

In what ways were all the world empires mentioned in the chapter, as well as the Nation of Israel, transgressors?

The same verse, verse v23, indicates that at the end of the Greek Empire, when it has met its completion ("come to the full"), "a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up." Consider the following verses and their context when attempting to define these terms:

1. *Fierce Countenance*: Deuteronomy 28:49-55
2. *Understanding Dark Sentences*: Numbers 12:6-8; 1 Kings 10:1; Psalm 49:1-4, 78:1-5; Proverbs 1:5-7; Isaiah 29:15; Daniel 5:12
3. *Stand up*: Daniel 11:2, 3

Notice again, unlike the explicit declaration of the two preceding world empires, no mention is given for the identity of this fierce, yet wise and crafty kingdom that shall arise. As we saw in our last study, the Empire of Rome, both its Pagan and Papal phases are illustrated through Hebrew pronouns that describe the working of the two aspects of the kingdom. In similar fashion the descriptions given in verses 24-26 juxtapose the two Romes in their works. Let us examine the table below for the details:

vs	Text	Pagan Rome fits the description	Papal Rome fits the description
24a	"And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power"	-----	Papal Rome was empowered by the civil and military strengths of the Nations arising from the 7 Barbarian tribes that converted to Catholicism (v12)

24b	“and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice”	The iron fist of Rome subdued all kingdoms in its paths and prospered, militarily, financially (through taxation), and in culture	The church of Rome prospered wonderfully in wealth as its wasteful Bishops enriched merchants of the world through their lavish and extravagant living (Rev 18:3, 9-13)
24c	“shall destroy the mighty and the holy people”	Pagan Rome is responsible for persecuting and rising up against Christ both at His birth and death. Pagan Rome also martyred most of the Apostles	Historians estimate that Papal Rome is responsible for the death, imprisonment, and torture of 50-100million people who opposed its doctrine, over a period of 1,260yrs
25a	“through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand”	-----	Through his cunning and insight (craft), the Papacy fully brought world monarchs under its control, promoting its agenda of world domination
25b	“and he shall magnify [himself] in his heart”	Roman Caesars were themselves honored and revered as gods; building monuments (arches, coliseums, sanctuaries for their pagan gods, etc.) to their glory	The self-exaltation of the papal bishops, usurping the glory and praise only due God, yet in the name of God, was an offense heretofore unknown.
25c	“by peace shall destroy many”	-----	Bearing the outward frock of piety and austerity but inwardly lascivious power mongers, the Roman Bishops and Popes ravenously hunted Protestant Christians dwelling in remote mountain wildernesses who thought they lived in obscure peace and safety
25d	“shall also stand up against the Prince of princes”	Christ was tried in a Roman court; it was a Roman governor that sentenced Christ to death; Roman hands that nailed Him to the cross, and a Roman spear that pierced His side	The boast of the papacy is that he is a god, but the true God declares him to be a mere man who shall be broken. (Ezekiel 28:1-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-9)
25e	“but he shall be broken without hand”	-----	The prophetic fate at the hands of God alone, promised throughout the bible to this world power at the end of time.

The revelation concludes with an assurance from Gabriel that the vision (*mar'eh* – Hebrew) of the evening and mornings (days) given in verse 14, specifically relating to the sanctuary (*Qodesh* – Hebrew) is true. That the Lord would draw both Daniel's and our attention to this aspect of the revelation suggests there are items of great import to be analyzed in the following chapters.

Daniel is instructed to "shut thou up the vision, for it shall be for many days." What do these instructions mean and why are they given?

The Lord through Gabriel instructs Daniel to shut-up or seal the writings of the prophetic vision because the fulfillment of which would extend into the distant future. God makes it plain that the full understanding of the prophetic vision and its fulfillment would be rendered in the distant future and would therefore remain sealed to readers' understanding until the appointed time (compare Isaiah 29:11, 12). Here again we see that the writings of the prophets are more for our time than for the time in which they were written (1 Corinthians 10:11).

For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, [Interpreting Bible Prophecy](#), also located on the Life More Abundant Bible Study website.